GV
691
T45556
1997
V 19 n 20

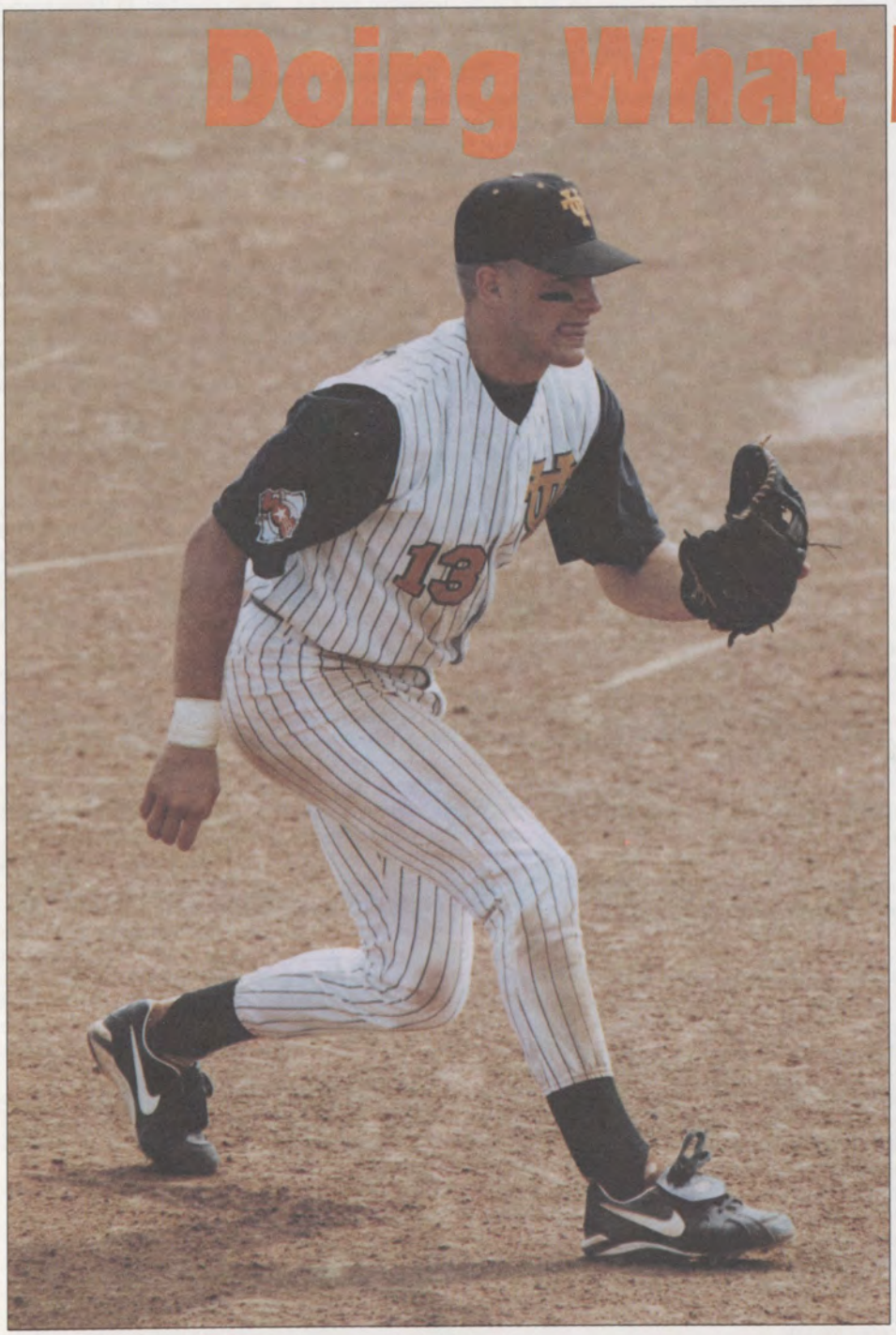
UT KNOXVILLE LIBRARY
3 9029 02589137 9

Smokey's Tale

Volunteers MAGAZINE

Vol. 19, NO. 20 / May 19, 1997

News from the Tennessee Volunteers



Doing What It Takes!

An interview with Vol baseballer Ken Folkers.
ROB HARDIN
4

In This Issue...

BEN BYRD
The Vol Radio Network
Lindsey Nelson started the Vol Network in 1949.
10

THE LAST WORD
Jim McDonald Remembered
TOM MATTINGLY
15

Russell Johnson captured first place at the UT Field Event/Multi Invitational in early May.

Vol Tracksters Compete on Tom Black Track

The Vols played host to No. 11 Clemson University, Morehouse College, Liberty University, Brevard College and Life College in the Tennessee Men's Twilight Invitational on May 7.

The Vols captured four events in the Invitational as sophomore Russell Johnson won the pole vault with a 17-0 3/4 vault, while Mike Moran won the 800M with an outdoor season best time of 1:50.36. Wes Boudreau took honrs in the shot put with a toss of 55-9 3/4 and Doug Ellington won the steeplechase with a time of 9:08.2.

In the UT Field Event/Multi Invitational held at the end of April, Johnson captured the top spot in the pole vault on April 28, negotiating a height of 17-3. He was followed by Texas A&M's Rich McDonald with a mark of 16-6.

Boudreau, a 1996 All-America in the hammer, chalked up a 214-2 in the event to capture first place. In the shot put, Aaron Ausmus took the No. 1 spot with a toss of 58-5 1/4.

Freshman Ryan Douglas posted a lifetime best in the 400M dash in a time of 48.37 claiming first-place honors.

Vol Track Squad Signs Two

Tennessee signed two prep stars to its track and field program for the 1997-98 campaign. Both are natives of Ohio and will join the Vols during the 1997 fall semester.

Adrian Wheatley of Worthington, Ohio, has numerous athletic achievements to his honor. While at Worthington High School, Wheatley ran the 200M (22.0), 400M (48.3) and 800M (1:57.0) competitions. The team captain holds the school record in the 4x400 meter relay and his relay team captured the state championship in the 4x800. He was a key part of his track club claiming the league, district and region titles during his senior season.

Brad Missler, a native of North Ridgeville, Ohio, is a senior at St. Edward High School where he boasts a personal best of 4:18.9 in the mile run on the prep track squad. He also competes in the 800 meter run with a career top time of 1:58.3.

Peyton Manning Named Phi Beta Kappa

Tennessee senior quarterback Peyton Manning was among 75 Spring 1997 honorees of The Epsilon of Tennessee Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, honoring students in the College of Arts and Sciences for outstanding academic achievement in the pursuit of a broadly based liberal art education.

Vol Golfers Earn Regional Berth

The Tennessee golf team learned of its destination on May 6, as the Vols will head to The Homestead in Hot Springs, Va., in the NCAA East Regional Championships to be held May 15-17.

The Vols will send Tim Turpen, Kevin Law, Derrick Centers, Boomer Erick and Keith Blythe to compete in the East Regionals. Tennessee will attempt to tie a program record by advancing to the NCAA Championships for the third consecutive year.

NCAA Championship berths await the top 11 teams and top two individuals from non-qualifying teams at the East Regionals.

Tim Turpen Earns SEC Honor

Tennessee golfer Tim Turpen was tabbed Second-Team All-SEC following the recent SEC Championships in Opelika, Ala. The senior from Fayetteville was previously named to the 1997 SEC Academic Honor Roll. Turpen leads the squad with a 73.13 stroke average compiled through 30 fall and spring rounds. Turpen participated in every tournament the Vols played in this season. The highlight of the season occurred when Turpen took the individual title at The Nelson in Palo Alto, Calif., in November. At the tournament, Turpen fired a Vol season-best 211 to top the field of 90 golfers.

Leonardo and Somsamart to Join Linksters

Leonardo Rios from Rio Grande, Brazil and Phanthep Somsamart, a native of Bangkok, Thailand, have signed papers to join the Vol golf team next season.

Rios graduated from high school at Liceu Saleziano Leao XIII in 1995. Since then, Rios has been working solely on improving his golf game.

Rios brings an impressive resume to Tennessee. In 1996, Rios placed third at the Brazilian Junior and eighth at the Brazilian Amateur. Rios placed fourth at the 1995 Brazilian Junior. He set the course record at the Country Club of Rio Grande with a blazing 62. Rios was one of four to represent Brazil at the 1995 World Junior Golf Team Championship in Japan.

Rios joins Somsamart who attended high school for two and a half years in Bangkok. He is now attending classes at St. Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton, Fla., where he will graduate in June. Somsamart has attended the David Leadbetter Golf Academy in Bradenton since January 1996.

Somsamart's resume includes a third place finish at the 1996 Junior World Championships at Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego where he fired a four round total of 289. He also won the Thailand Junior Golf Championship in 1993, `94 and `95.

Football Injury Updates

A pair of Tennessee football players had surgery after the conclusion of spring practice. Doctors at St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville performed exploratory arthroscopic surgery on Shaun Ellis' left knee and confirmed that the sophomore had sustained torn cartilage damage. The Anderson, S.C., native is currently listed as the top reserve to Leonard Little at left defensive end.

Senior defensive end Jonathan Brown had a pin placed in his right foot to correct a stress fracture. Brown, a native of Tulsa, Okla., started all 12 games in 1996 and ranked second on the team with 6.5 sacks.

Both players are expected to be available for the beginning of fall practice, which begins in August.

Smokey's Tale
Volunteers MAGAZINE
Official Publication of the University of Tennessee Athletic Department

University President
Dr. Joseph E. Johnson

University Chancellor
Dr. William T. Snyder

Men's Athletics Director
Douglas A. Dickey

Women's Athletics Director
Joan Cronan

Associate Athletics Director for Media Relations
Haywood Harris

Assistant Athletics Director for Sports Information
Bud Ford

Editor and Director of Special Publications
Thomas J. Mattingly

Advertising Manager
Chip Bryant

Contributing Writers
Ben Byrd, Rob Hardin, Donnell Field, Steve Sams, Kevin Marina, Chad King, Nathan Kirkham, Jeff Muir, Brenda Rabon, Brad Laux

Contributing Photographers
U. T. Photographic Services

Publisher's Office
Room 267, Stokely Athletics Center, 1720 Volunteer Blvd., Knoxville, TN (423) 974-1266

Mailing Address
Volunteers Magazine
Post Office Box 15016, Knoxville, TN 37901-5016

UT Printing Authorization
E01-8601-10-001-97

Member of College Sports Publishers Association.

Volunteers Magazine (ISSN 10867775, USPS 013815) is published once in August, weekly September through November, once in December and twice monthly January through June. Subscription cost is $29.97 yearly. The known office of publication is 267 Stokely Athletic Center, 1720 Volunteer Boulevard, Knoxville, TN 37996. Periodical postage paid at Nashville, Tenn. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to Volunteers Magazine, P.O. Box 15016, Knoxville, TN 37901-5016

FROM THE EDITOR

The athletic department has a positive impact on the campus community.

The University, the Campus and the Knoxville Community

There was recently reported to the Athletics Board some salient facts about Athletic Department contributions to not only the campus community, but to the community as a whole. We thought you would like to know what the impact of Athletic Department operations is outside of our four walls.

Consider the following:

*** There is $700,000 given annually to the Bicentennial, Neyland and Band Scholarship Funds.

*** The economic impact of athletic scholarships on the campus community is $2.0 million annually.

*** Revenues from licensing of UT apparel and souvenir sales amount to $1.2 million annually and are growing.

*** Tutorial jobs and graduate assistantships for students on campus amount to $500,000 annually.

*** Maintenance of athletic facilities used by a wide range of individuals from the campus and community amounts to $1.5 million annually.

*** Parking revenue to the University from basketball and football game days amount to $750,000 annually.

*** The Athletic Department is a financial partner in building two new parking facilities on campus, with debt service to the Athletic Department amounting to $520,000 annually.

*** The Athletic Department funded the "Pride of the Southland Marching Band's" trip to Washington, D.C., for President Clinton's inauguration in 1997 (donation of $75,000).

*** The Athletic Department accounted for $ 1.3 million in sales taxes from ticket sales, concessions and souvenirs in 1996-97.

*** The Athletic Department accounted for $600,000 in amusement taxes on ticket sales in 1996-97.

*** 16,000 season tickets given to University alumni and development for use in gift-benefit programs worth $3.0 million.

Total: More than $10 million to university programs annually.

Here are some other highlights for the men's program for the period 1986-97.

*** Tennessee had two Scholar-Athletes of the Year (John Young and Lang Wiseman).

*** In 1995-96, Tennessee had the most scholar-athletes listed on the SEC Academic Honor Roll for the second time in three years.

*** In 1996-97, the Athletic Department had the No. 1 graduate in the College of Communications, offensive lineman Brad Lampley.

*** Over that time frame, Tennessee had 29 first team Academic All-America selections and 355 first-team Academic All-SEC selections.

That's just a few things we thought you'd like to know.

Volunteers Magazine Staff

UT KNOXVILLE LIBRARY
3 9029 02589137 9

A Look At The Vols...
DOING WHAT IT TAKES!

Every good baseball team needs a utility player. The team needs someone who can play several infield positions or feels comfortable anywhere in the outfield.

This year's version of the Diamond Vols has a utility player, but not one in the sense of a traditional one. They have one who can play a solid third base, be a designated hitter, provide leadership, and when necessary take to the pitcher's mound to provide needed innings of work.

Ken Folkers is that man for the Vols. He is carrying a .330 batting average with nine home runs and 43 runs batted in and has 12 stolen bases.

On the mound, he is 5-3 with a 3.66 earned run average with 66.1 innings pitched and has recorded 63 strikeouts.

"I will do whatever is needed to help this team," Folkers said. "I just like playing. This is my last year and I will do whatever it takes for this team. If I need to pitch, I will pitch or I will DH when I need to DH."

As a designated hitter, Folkers has twice come up big for the Vols with what proved to be game-winning home runs.

One of his more memorable performances came in early season series against SEC foe Arkansas. The Vols had built an early lead but the Razorbacks had battled back and cut the Vols lead to one run in the eighth. Folkers left his third base position to come in and pitch the eighth for Tennessee.

He held the Razorbacks scoreless and the did some damage at the plate in the bottom of the inning. He delivered a two-run homer over that left field fence that cleared Stadium Drive and landed near the KUB substation across the street.

It was one of the longest home runs ever hit at Lindsey Nelson Stadium.

Folkers will probably be remembered for that blast, but there was one in Chattanooga that etched him and his teammates into the Tennessee record book.

Heading into a game with in-state rival Middle Tennessee State, the Vols had connected on 65 home runs, one short of the season record of 66 set in 1980, a season that saw Chuck Barclift hit 20 dingers to set the single season record, a mark tied by Todd Helton in 1995.

Folkers has been a versatile player for the Vols, lining up at third base, pitcher and designated hitter.

So needing only two home runs to break the record, the Vols were sure to get them with a month left in the season. The only question was when, and that was answered against the Blue Raiders.

Jeff Pickler connected a solo home run in the third to tie the mark, and the Folkers made history when he hit a home run to give the Vols 67 on the season.

"With our bats we know we can score some runs. If one gets a hit it kind of snowballs into three or four hits. Then we get a couple of runs."

The Vols have been productive and have been putting wins on the board, but there was doubt heading into the season on how the pitching staff would perform. Folkers believes the offensive power of the team though has made life easier for the Vol hurlers.

"I WILL DO WHATEVER IS NEEDED TO HELP THIS TEAM. I JUST LIKE PLAYING. THIS IS MY LAST YEAR AND I WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES FOR THIS TEAM. IF I NEED TO PITCH, I WILL PITCH OR I WILL DH WHEN I NEED TO DH."

KEN FOLKERS

Folkers has been a stand-up guy for Tennessee all season. He has stepped into the role of being a leader of this team.

"One of biggest contributions to the team is giving it leadership," Folkers said. "Last year I think we lacked some leadership. Going into the season Coach Delmonico wanted a couple of us to step up and show the younger guys what it takes to win. I think that is my major role on this team.

"I am comfortable being a leader. Every team needs somebody that is going to be a leader and get things done."

Not only is Folkers getting it done for the Vols as a leader, the Vols are getting it done on the offensive side of the game altogether.

As a team, the Vols are hitting .338 led by Keene's .397 average, and have eight players hitting over .300. The have totalled 71 home runs and have outscored their opponents 444-299. They are averaging over nine runs a game.

"Hitting is contagious," Folkers said. "When Clay Greene leads off with a hit and then steals a base, Justin Ross knows a fastball is coming, because they don't want Clay to steal third. Justin gets a hit and it just filters down through the lineup. This is what we have been doing all year. We have different guys picking us up every game.

"I think there were some doubts going into the season because our pitching staff was young and didn't have many innings at the Division I level," he said. "But once they found out we could hit, it is a lot easier to pitch. It is nice to pitch with a five-run lead."

Folkers also contributes the team attitude to the success of the Vols.

"There is not a superstar on our team," he said."There is just a lot of good players, and I like that. One guy is going to have a great day and it is not going to be the same guy every game."

Part of the team's chemistry is the lure of baseball and the love everyone has for the game.

"All of us have grown up playing baseball and we love the game," Folkers said. "I think we are all excited just to play at this level, as least I know I am. It is fun being out here because we have all loved the game since we were kids."

Though the native of Napierville, Illinois, is now a Vol, his journey here was not a direct one. He left Illinois and played two years at Lassen Community College in California. Then after a career on which he earned All-America honors in 1995 and was his conference's most valuable player that same year, Folkers made his way back east to Knoxville.

"I went to junior college in California, and I took a chance going out there because I did not know much about it," he said. "I went in and the coach told me if I worked hard he could get me a scholarship pretty much wherever I wanted to go. So I worked hard and had a pretty good junior college career and I got offered a scholarship here. I am excited to be playing here."

Coming to Tennessee where a new winning tradition has been established brings with it pressure, but Folkers believes it is good pressure.

"The guys five or six years ago started the tradition of winning here and it puts pressure on the team every year to win," he said. "But it is good pressure. It makes you work hard during the season and off-season. Those guys set a good foundation for us."

That's Ken Folkers, the leader, the third baseman, the pitcher and the designated hitter, doing what it takes for the Vols.

—Rob Hardin

Tournament Time On Diamond

Jason Clabo leads off second base in a recent series with the Georgia Bulldogs in Knoxville. Photo by Donnell Field.

The final games of the regular season were played in Gainesville this past weekend, where the Vols needed to take two of three games to win the Eastern Division crown. Again this series has provided the winner with the No.1 seed from the east as the Vols and Gators battled again for that coveted position.

The Vols could have made things much easier on themselves had they not lost two out of three at Vanderbilt, the same Commodore team that swept Florida earlier this season.

Tennessee pitcher Luke Hudson held the dangerous Commodore bats in check as the Vols cruised to an 11-2 victory. Hudson improved to 6-1 going seven innings, allowing nine hits and two runs. One of the runs was a solo homer by Vanderbilt's Josh Adeeb, who went three-for-three on the evening. Clay Greene led the Vol attack with a pair of hits, three RBIs, three runs scored and two stolen bases.

Adeeb singled off the Vols' Jason Marr (5-1) with the bases loaded in the ninth, driving in the winning run as Vanderbilt took a 10-9 victory.

The Vols came back from a seven run deficit as starter Michael Cosgrove was roughed up for those seven runs over three innings. With the score 8-7, the Vols tied the game in the seventh with a run and then took the lead on freshman Kurt Keene's 11th home run on the season, a solo shot in the top of the ninth. Vandy's Jason Farese hit a weak grounder to Marr who was unable to pick up the wet ball and allowed the tying run to score. Two batters later, Adeeb singled to center for the final run.

The Vols again found themselves digging out of a hole as the Commodores scored five unearned runs in the bottom of the first off of starter Ken Folkers (4-3), and stretched the lead to 6-0 after three innings before Tennessee could respond. The Vols scored six runs in the top of the fourth chasing Vandy starter Mike Byrd. The Commodores responded in the bottom half of the fourth with a two-run homer to make it 8-6. The Vols could never reclaim the lead and dropped the game 12-9.

Before playing its final home series the Vols traveled to Kingsport for the third annual Hokie-Smokey Classic. The No. 11 Vols turned four double plays and got four extra base hits as they defeated Virginia Tech 2-1.

Cosgrove (9-3) rebounded from the poor outing at Vanderbilt to pitch 5 1/3 innings, allowing one run on four hits for the win. Marr worked the ninth for his fourth save while Joe Abell pitched 2 2/3 innings of shutout relief before Marr came on. Tennessee took the lead on Folkers' run scoring double that plated Keene who had reached base on a double with one out. A solo home run in the bottom of the second tied the game, and that is where it stayed until the fourth when Jason Clabo tripled to center that plated Keene who hit his second double of

the game, giving the Vols a 2-1 lead, a lead it would not relinquish.

Tennessee took great favor in having Friday's game with South Carolina washed out as the Vols trailed 6-4 in the bottom of the fourth. Because of NCAA rules, any baseball game not meeting a complete game requirement must be replayed completely. Tennessee needed that aid to come back on Saturday and sweep the double header from the Gamecocks 7-3 and 10-7. The win with a Florida loss gave the Vols a two game lead in the SEC East standings.

Justin Ross (left) and Eduardo Figueroa (right) have been solid performers for the Vols.

Folkers (5-3) pitched a complete game, allowing one run on three hits through eight innings, while retiring 14 batters in a row at one point. His final totals were three runs on five hits while striking out 10 and no walks issued. After holding the Vols to six hits over six innings, Gamecock pitcher Brett Jodie was tagged for four runs in the seventh and three in the eighth as Tennessee used the offensive power of catcher Michael Anderson who had three hits and two RBIs, while Justin Ross had a two-run double. Keene also added his 13th homer of the season in the eighth, a two-run shot to leftfield.

The second game saw Michael Cosgrove go 8 1/3 innings as he improved to 10-3 on the season. Cosgrove allowed all seven Carolina runs and then turned the game over to Clark Odum who retired the final two batters for his first save. The Vols took a 3-0 lead on Travis Copley's run scoring single that plated Ross who lead off with a double. Copley then scored on a wild pitch and Folkers drove in the third run with a ground out. Tennessee extended the lead to 5-0 on Clabo's solo shot and a fielding error that plated Baker Moore. The Gamecocks responded with four runs on five hits in the seventh, cutting Tennessee's lead to 10-7, only to see the door shut on them before doing anymore damage.

The final game of the series saw Tennessee commit a team-tying seven errors as the Vols lost 12-3, allowing six of the runs on errors.

Folkers hit his ninth homer of the season, a two-run shot, in the third, followed by Ross's RBI double in the fourth. Things went south from there as the Gamecocks struck for five runs in the fifth. The day overshadowed Greene stealing his 50th base of the season in the fourth inning, just before Ross doubled to plate Greene. With the loss the Vols fell to 40-13 on the season and 16-10 in the SEC. The Vols canceled their mid-week game with Georgia State and waited to travel to Gainesville for the final showdown.

EXTRA INNINGS: The Vol tennis team took on Florida in regional play of the NCAA Tournament. The Vols lost to the Gators 5-0...The Vols made a bid to host a regional NCAA tournament, but lost out to SEC schools LSU, Alabama and Mississippi State...The Vols lost 2 of 3 to Florida (first since 1992) to share the Eastern Division Crown and played the Gators in the first round of the SEC Tournament in Columbus, Ga....The Lady Vols softball team did not receive an NCAA bid despite their 45-22 record.

— Jeff Muir and Donnell Field

UT Line Scores

SOUTH CAROLINA	000	100	002	—3	5	3
TENNESSEE	000	000	43X	—7	12	0

Jodie, Hoshour (8) and Streicher. Folkers and Anderson, Duckwiler (9). W- Folkers (5-3). L- Jodie (8-2). HR- SC- Bordenick (12). UT- Keene (13). T- 2:10. Att- 1825.

SOUTH CAROLINA	000	201	400	—7	13	4
TENNESSEE	323	101	00x	—10	10	1

Kirby, Speer (3), Moore (7) and Bordenick. Cosgrove, Odom (9) and Anderson. W- Cosgrove (10-3). L- Kirby (0-1). Sv- Odom (1). HR- UT- Clabo (4). T- 2:16. Att- 2219.

SOUTH CAROLINA	001	051	203	—12	13	2
TENNESSEE	002	100	000	—3	9	7

Whitfield, Pomar (3), Moore (9) and Steicher. Odom, Abell (5), J. Keene (5), Myers (6), Brummitt (7) and Anderson, K. Keene and Duckwiler (9). W- Pomar (7-4). L- Odom (1-2). HR- SC- Urquhart (8) and Streicher (16). UT- Folkers (9). T- 3:07. Att- 2276.

Vol Profile...

Jim Haslam and the Class of 1997

EDITOR'S NOTE: On May 1, the Tennessee Letterman's T-Club held a luncheon at the University of Tennessee Student Center honoring the 1997 graduating seniors from the men's and women's athletic departments. The featured speaker was former Vol captain Jim Haslam (1952), founder and Chairman of Pilot Oil Corporation, a company which currently operates 50 convenience stores and 97 travel centers in 37 states. The annual sales for 1996 were expected to be in excess of $1.5 billion. Here is a portion of his remarks.

Time moves awfully fast. Forty-five years ago, I was sitting here in your shoes. I remember very well I had graduated. was going home to St. Petersburg, Fla., and was about to go into the Army.

My mother told me that Jack Puryear wanted to see me. Mr. Puryear was a real estate and insurance executive in St. Petersburg who had been a very successful high school and college athlete.

I walked into his office and he looked and me and said, "You aren't a big shot any more, Haslam. You played on a national championship football team. You were captain of the football team, but that's all over. You're in the real world, son. You can try to live on your laurels, and I don't think you'll do very well. You played for arguably the finest football coach you've ever had, Gen. Neyland. You can take what you've learned in athletics and make something of your life."

To tell you the truth, I didn't really think about it that much. I was about to go into the Army, about to get married and I had other things on my mind. But fast forward about eight or nine years. I was through with the Army, I had worked for somebody else and I had started Pilot. Pilot had been in business about three years and I was going to St. Petersburg.

I was back in the airport catching a flight back to Knoxville and ran into Mr. Puryear. I told him I had started my own business. He said "I bet you're putting to use all the things Gen. Neyland taught you, all the things you learned from athletics." I said, "Yes."

I got on the airplane and said to myself I'm really not doing that. So I wrote down what I thought I had learned in college and in athletics. I broke it down to the basic categories any good coach will teach you.

One is discipline. Gen. Neyland was an Army officer and we had rules. I don't think you can do anything in life without discipline. Number two, work hard. You have to work hard. Number three, fundamentals. Number four, set high goals. He wanted to win a national championship. We have Abby Conklin and Pashen Thompson here today. There isn't anything in this world like a national championship. No matter what happens the rest of your life you can say I played on a national championship team. That night in Cincinnati was special. You have to set high goals. Anybody could tell you those things.

Then I thought, what did Gen. Neyland do about personnel? So much of business is personnel. We always said we had to recruit the best players. He said you have to practice, practice, practice. There weren't rules back then. We started spring football practice in January and ended in May and played three or four intra-squad games. It was a whole different thing.

Then he always said improve, improve, improve. Execute, execute, execute. You get the best people, train them, practice with a goal and you improve, but the goal is excellence. He had football figured out. Gen. Neyland invented the game maxims in 1926, 71 years ago. "The team that makes the fewest mistakes wins." Think about that. The same thing goes in business. We can make a few mistakes, but we can't make a lot.

The second thing is to "play for and make the breaks and when one comes you way, score!" You get certain breaks in business and have certain opportunities and you'd better be ready to take care of these.

Here's a very important one. "If at first the game or the breaks go against you, don't slow down or get rattled, put on more steam." I was just starting into business and wasn't doing any good. I sat down and said how can I figure out our business like Gen. Neyland figured out football? What do we want it to be?

Our number one thing is that integrity comes first. Do the right thing all the time. I can't emphasize that too much. You can't break the rules. You can't do the wrong thing. There's right and wrong, black and white and not a lot of gray. We're a customer-driven company. We wanted to put the emphasis on the customer. The third thing is team work. This is what you learn in athletics, teamwork. Together, everyone accomplishes more. The fourth is hustle. Faster, better, cheaper, now. The fifth is to be the most efficient operator in the industry. We want to be the low-cost operator. Number six, we will win by attracting the best players and giving them the best training. Is that an athletic slogan or not? Continually drive for growth and improvement. We're the company you can be proud of. Be the best. As you go on in life, you can take the same things that made you a successful athlete, that make Tennessee win in all sports we compete in, make the Lady Vols national champions, and you can be successful in life.

Let me make one other comment. They always say to whom much is given, much is expected. A lot is going to be expected of you and people are going to say was he or she successful.

You have an opportunity to do a lot of good by helping other people. I challenge you to do that and if you do you'll have a successful life.

No matter where you go you're always a Volunteer, you're always a letter winner. Whatever you do you'll always be judged as a Tennessee athlete. Let's make sure that whatever happens in your life we're always proud of you.

— Jim Haslam

BASEBALL!

TENNESSEE BASEBALL

Would like to thank these sponsors for their support of the 1997 season

Athletic House/ River Sports

Aztex Fuel & Food Centers

Beckler Carpets

Bell South Real Yellow Pages

BMC

Cellular One

Creative Structures

D. F. Shoffner

Easton

Edsouth

Fox 43

Frazier Welding & Steel Co.

Freeman, Melancon, Bryant Advertising

Gatorade

Grady's

Hound Dogs

Hyatt

Knoxville Coca-Cola

Knoxville Wholesale Furniture

Kroger

Lay's Packing Company

O'Charley's

Old College Inn

Pappa John's Pizza

Philips Electronics

Regal Cinemas

St. Mary's Health Systems

Star 93.1

SunTrust Bank

University Outfitters

Wendy's

WIVK
AM 990 - FM 99.1

Ben Byrd...
THE VOL RADIO NETWORK!

More than 100,000 people will watch Tennessee's home football games at Neyland Stadium this fall, but that's only a fraction of the number of Big Orange fans who will follow the action via the voice of John Ward and the Vol Network on the radio. The network now involves over 85 stations penetrating into 28 states and is one of the biggest and best in college football.

As UT football has grown in popularity, so has its coverage on radio and television. Today's Vol broadcasts, with their state-of-the-art technology, are far advanced over rather primitive beginnings back in the 1930s when one announcer with the aid of a single spotter labored in cramped quarters to paint a picture in words for his relatively tiny audience. But there is one common thread to tie the new in with the old: there has always been a talented and dedicated announcer behind the UT mike.

Hall of Fame sportscaster Lindsey Nelson founded the Vol Network in 1949. Prior to then individual stations had done play-by-play accounts, with such distinguished Knoxville radio pioneers announcers as Lowell Blanchard and Allyn Stout behind the mike. It was during one of these broadcasters in the late 1930s that Nelson got an unexpected nudge into the profession that he was to enrich for so many years. Lindsey was serving as the spotter for a WSM (Nashville) announcer at a Tennessee-Vanderbilt game during his days as a UT undergraduate. The old press-radio booth at Shields-Watkins Field had no plumbing facilities. A quick trip to the lavatory beneath the stands was required. Sometime during halftime, the announcer reached the point he could wait no longer. He turned to his spotter, said "You've got it," and the voice of Lindsey Nelson was heard for the first time on a college football broadcast.

Nelson didn't stay around very long after originating the Vol Network. He was off to the national scene after a couple of years. If I remember correctly, his good friend Allyn Stout filled in for him until UT found a replacement in Memphis announcer George Mooney. That turned out to be a long-term relationship. George Mooney was the Voice of the Vols for that time, working through the retirement of Bob Neyland and the subsequent coaching tenures of Harvey Robinson, Bowden Wyatt and Jim McDonald and on into the Doug Dickey era.

Mooney brought a very animated announcing style and a wonderfully generous spirit to his job. I will always remember George for the compassionate way in which he looked after his sidekick, former Vol great Bob Foxx, after Bob was stricken with a rare muscle-nerve disease that ultimately claimed his life. He saw to it that Bob got wherever he needed to go, and toward the end, when Bob was almost a total invalid, George served as his legs and arms and hands.

John Ward succeeded Mooney in 1968 and has been a fixture ever since. Ward has worked through the coaching careers of Dickey, Bill Battle, John Majors and Phillip Fulmer, and as the network and its audience have grown, he has become every bit as celebrated as the players and coaches whose deeds he has described.

I was fortunate enough to be on the scene when John got his start. He was a young reporter on the sports staff of the Knoxville Journal in the late 1950s, and a very good one, but his heart lay in another direction. One night, Knoxville radio station WKGN gave him a shot at doing a high school broadcast and it was no surprise to me that he did it so well that the station almost immediately hired him as their play-by-play man. The rest, as they say, is history. John did the Tennessee basketball broadcast for a long time before the football job opened up, and for the last 28 years he has done both, to the delight of Vol fans throughout the south.

Ward's highly distinctive style is balanced perfectly by the laid-back commentary of his analyst, ex-Vol star Bill Anderson, who has shared the mike with Ward from the very first game. Tennessee's football teams have had their share of peaks and valleys over the years, but the Vol Network has kept a long winning streak going.

Former Vol

Mike Sposa (1988-91)

Mike Sposa came to the University of Tennessee from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and lettered from 1988-91.

He was the 1990 SEC Champion, the same year his team won the SEC title. He played on the Walker Cup team in 1991 and was a two-time All-America (third team in 1990 and honorable mention in 1991). He was All-SEC in 1990 and 1991. He advanced to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Amateur Tournament in 1991.

He won the Carpet Capital Classic in Dalton, Ga., shooting 209 over three rounds, and the Dixie Amateur, both in 1990.

He is now playing on the NIKE Tour. Heading into 1996-97, he had career earnings of $128,499 over $29,000 this past year.

Mike Sposa had an SEC championship during his time at UT in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Hermann Gets Olympic Volleyball Post

Former UT head volleyball coach Julie Hermann signed on with head U.S. team coach Mick Haley's staff as a technical assistant to the USA women's volleyball team. In addition to her other duties, Hermann will also serve as an assistant for the U.S. World University Games team this summer. Hermann, who piloted the Lady Vols for six seasons, resigned in February to take a post in the UT development office.

Zenner In, Wilson & Hopkins Out

Five-year assistant coach Kim Zenner has been named the interim head volleyball coach after six-year skipper Julie Hermann moved into a development and fund-raising post earlier this spring. Zenner will serve in her new capacity until a permanent head coach is named. The other volleyball assistant, Karen Hopkins, recently resigned to take a similar position at Georgia Tech after only one year at UT. Meanwhile, four-year assistant tennis coach Mandy Wilson also resigned. A standout All-American for the Lady Vols from 1988-92, Wilson has decided to move to Florida and pursue other opportunities effective May 31.

Amy Delashmit has been a solid force for the rowing squad earning the school's first All-America honor.

Tennis To Compete in Regionals

The Lady Vol tennis team moved up three spots to No. 16 in the national rankings and earned a top seed at the NCAA Southwestern Regionals after completing the spring with a 17-9 regular-season record. Tennessee, which has won nine of its last 11 matches, received a regional berth for the second straight year and will take on 36th-ranked Baylor (14-6) in the first round of the May 9-11 competition at Rice University in Houston, Texas. LSU, Texas A&M, Houston, Rice, TCU and Tulane are the other six teams to qualify for the event. If the squad wins out, it joined the other five regional victors and the nation's top-10 ranked teams in the 16-team NCAA Championships, May 15-23, at Stanford.

Golf Earns Regional Bid

As the top-ranked team in the Mid-Atlantic East District, the Lady Vol golfers have been extended a bid to compete in the NCAA East Regional, May 8-10 in Bloomington, Ill. No. 4-ranked Tennessee will be one of 19 squads at the tournament battling for a top-seven finish guaranteeing a berth in the 18-team NCAA Championships, May 21-24 in Columbus, Ohio. SEC Tournament champ Georgia along with LSU, Auburn, Florida, Alabama, South Carolina and Kentucky are the other conference schools which will participate at the regionals.

Five Tennis Players, Three Golfers Earn All-SEC Accolades

Junior Margie Lepsi was the only Lady Vol tennis player to be named All-SEC, when she was selected to the first team by posting the best winning percentage of any player at the No. 2 singles position. It is her second-straight All-SEC honor. The nation's 45th-ranked player and two-time All-American, is 24-13 overall and 16-6 at No. 2 singles. Lepsi is also half of the nation's No. 3-ranked doubles tandem along with junior Manisha Malhotra. Scholastically, teammates Malhotra, senior Kristin Bachochin, and sophomores Carrie Spinner and Emily Woodside were named to the SEC All-Academic Team, as were golfers senior Amy Livsey, junior Rachel Thompson and sophomore Jessica Lindbergh. Bachochin and Livsey were each three-time honorees, while Malhotra and Thompson collected their second straight award.

Rowing Foursome Earns Regional Ranking

Aiming for a spot in the first-ever NCAA Championships, the Lady Vol rowing team's varsity 4+ received a significant boost in the latest NCAA regional rankings. The shell, which includes senior All-American Amy Delashmit, sophomore Janece Rittenberry, senior Suni Hartsfield, freshman Megan Reinhart and freshman coxswain Kelly Hitzing, was ranked fourth in the Central Region. With two regular-season races left, including the Central Region championships in Oak Ridge, the team needs to be among the top eight shells which do not automatically qualify for the NCAA's to earn a berth to the May 29-June 1 regatta in Sacramento, Calif.

Basketball Awards Presented at Banquet

At its annual banquet, the Lady Vol basketball team handed out awards for the 1996-97 season. Sophomore forward Chamique Holdsclaw took home her second consecutive MVP trophy, while also claiming best rebounder honors. Seniors center Pashen Thompson and forward Abby Conklin received the Unsung Hero and the Gloria Ray Leadership Awards, respectively. Other honorees were: sophomore forward Brynae Laxton (Lady Vol Torch Award For Scholastic Excellence), freshman guard Kyra Elzy (Holly Warlick Best Defensive Player Award), sophomore guard Misty Greene (Most Improved Player), junior center Tiffani Johnson (Sixth Player Award) and sophomore guard Kellie Jolly (Lady Vol Coaches Award).

This Week In Big Orange Country

Assistant Basketball Coaches Named

Eric Pauley has joined the Tennessee basketball staff, reuniting him with Jerry Green from their days at Kansas. Pauley played for two seasons (1992-93) under Kansas head coach Roy Williams when Green was an assistant.

"I'm pleased to have the opportunity to add a person like Eric Pauley to our staff who I've known for about seven years," said Green. "He will be a great asset to our staff and is someone who has an excellent knowledge of the game and the system we plan to employ."

Pauley, 26, comes to Tennessee from James Madison University where he coached last season under Lefty Driesell. While at James Madison, Pauley worked with the Dukes' low-post men and was responsible for scouting, film breakdown, on-campus recruiting and monitoring players' academic progress. Prior to last season, Pauley spent a part of the past two seasons as an assistant at Hayden High School in Topeka, Kan.

While at Kansas, Pauley was named to the Big Eight's All-Newcomer Team in 1992 after averaging 9.0 points and 3.9 assists. As a senior, Pauley averaged 11.9 points and 4.9 rebounds as a co-captain on the Jayhawks' 1993 Final Four squad earning honorable mention All-Big Eight honors. In five NCAA Tournament games, he averaged 11.6 points and 5.8 rebounds while shooting 57.4 percent from the field.

A native of Buena Park, Calif., Pauley signed with the Jayhawks after a junior college career at Cypress (Calif.) Community College under coach Don Johnson. After averaging 21 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.7 blocks as a sophomore, Pauley was named the California State Player of the Year and a junior college All-America.

Following his collegiate playing career, Pauley played professionally in Germany, Spain and Mexico and had tryouts with the Milwaukee Bucks and the Orlando Magic of the NBA.

Pauley will be joining Michael Hunt and Chris Ferguson as assistants to Coach Green.

Coach Jerry Green found three quality coaches for his staff.

Hunt, 36, will be entering his fourth year at Tennessee next season, is a veteran college coach having also worked at Florida State, Towson State and Forham prior to coming to Knoxville in 1994.

"I have been impresses by the professionalism Michael displayed during the transition period," Green said. "Michael has been a valuable asset to me in many ways since my arrival at Tennessee. He has developed excellent relationships with our current players and our incoming signees."

Hunt, a native of Macon, Ga., was instrumental in the Vols' recent recruiting successes that includes nationally-rated signing classes.

Ferguson, 38, comes to Tennessee after six years on Bill Foster's staff at Virginia Tech. He is reunited with Green, who hired him as an assistant when he was head coach at the University of North Carolina-Asheville.

"The people of Tennessee will be pleased by the fact that Chris is a fine recruiter and someone who will represent the university in a first-class manner," said Green.

After working for Green during the 1986-87 season at UNC-Asheville, the Hendersonville, N.C., native worked under Tom Apke at Appalachian State for four years prior to his appointment at Virginia Tech. He launched his coaching career at Freedom High in Morgantown, N.C.

Ferguson was a four-year letterman, lettering two years at Central Wesleyan (S.C.) College and two years at Cumberland (Ky.) College. He had the distinction of playing in the NAIA Tournament at both schools.

Softball's Sophomore Season Sets Sights on NCAAs

Last year it came close, but a 54-14 record was not good enough for the inaugural Lady Vol softball team to earn a bid to the 32-team NCAA Tournament. This season may be a different story. Even though last year's stumbling block—quality wins—remains a question, the Lady Vols have put themselves among the bubble teams for the NCAA to consider when the selections were made May 11.

Unlike last year, when Tennessee compiled impressive numbers against weaker opponents, the team has played well versus stronger competition. The addition of a Southeastern Conference slate has helped. Five SEC schools have received votes in the poll at one time or another during the regular season, including Tennessee, which has spent every week receiving votes. The Lady Vols are also ranked seventh in the South Region, a feat the team was unable to accomplish last year.

The improvement from its first to second seasons is noticeable. In 1996, the Lady Vols were 1-7 against teams which were ranked at some point during the year. This season, the squad is 6-12 against ranked foes. Although the numbers statistically are not as eye-catching as last year, the team has a lower ERA and a better fielding percentage, while still batting .325 entering the SEC Tournament. Barring an NCAA Tournament appearance, a 50-win season is unlikely, however Tennessee did post a 45-20 regular-season record and a respectable 20-7 conference mark.

Yet similar to last year, there are no guarantees. The Lady Vols are still on the outside looking in and with only a handful of games in the six-team, double-elimination SEC Tournament still ahead, time is running out. Since the conference is only in its first season of existence, the SEC champion will not receive an automatic bid into the NCAA field, until at least the 1998-99 season.

Junior Jodi Ramirez helped propel the Lady Vols to the inaugural SEC Tourney in Columbus, Georgia.

Even a conference title may come too late to save UT, since the championship game is played the afternoon of May 11, with the NCAA Tournament selection show coming that evening.

However, optimism in the program is higher than last year. Head coach Jim Beitia believes his team still has a chance at one of the 16 at-large bids. "With a stronger schedule this season, plus a couple of significant victories over top-10 teams South Carolina and Long Beach State on the road as well as South Florida at home, I think we opened some eyes on the committee and we should be taken more seriously than we were last year."

Tennessee enters the final stretch of the season with a ranking equivalent to a tie for 36th. That figure, however, is misleading since UT dropped from 29th, its lowest spot in the polls all season, after splitting a home series with 24th-ranked LSU, winning 6-2 and losing 3-2.

What could make a difference is how the team fares in the SEC Tournament which opened Fri., May 9 against Auburn. Another matchup with LSU is probable with South Carolina to follow. Four or five wins will win the tournament and most likely two would come against the Tigers and Gamecocks raising UT's mark against ranked teams. With the addition of the SEC programs spreading out the talent pool, the NCAA has more depth than in previous years and after the perennial powers, the field is more wide open.

So, once again it will come down to the wire. Tennessee will most likely not know its fate until the names are read off during the selection show. Regardless of the outcome, the Lady Vols have continued to show they are a force to be reckoned with.

—Brad Laux

Lettermen News and Notes...

The Lettermen's Club would like to congratulate the 1997 Volunteer student-athletes who graduated this year. We appreciate the contributions you have made to the Tennessee athletic program. Good luck in your future endevors.

Joe Abell - Baseball
Marvena Almond - Track
Marcella Amar - Swimming
Raymond Austin - Football
Kristin Bachochin - Tennis
Larry Binion - Football
Kathy Blakemore - Soccer
Keith Blythe - Golf
Tracy Bonner - Swimming
James Braswell - Football
Megan Burch - Track
Dawn Burton - Swimming
Ron Cincera - Baseball
Shay Coker - Baseball
Abby Conklin - Basketball
Sonny Cortez - Baseball
Kari Davis - Swimming
Amy Delashmit - Rowing
Jon DeWalt - Track
Jason Echols - Golf
Boomer Erick - Golf
Falco Fleischmann - Swimming
Candice Fode - Softball
Kevin Foley - Football
Ken Folkers - Baseball
Chester Ford - Football
Brent Gibson - Football
Jay Graham - Football
Clay Greene - Baseball
Sarah Harper - Rowing
Suni Hartsfield - Rowing
Leslie Henley - Track
Tyrone Hines - Football
Kim Hoogenboom - Rowing
Mark Ingram - Football
Bridget Jackson - Softball
Nick Jester - Football
Greg Johnson - Football
Kristi Johnson - Rowing
Saidah Jones - Track
Joey Kent - Football
Craig King - Football
Eric Lane - Football
Jamarcus Langston - Track
Amy Livsey - Golf
Jeff McDaniel - Swimming
Katrice Malcom - Track
Peyton Manning - Football
Leslie Mix - Swimming
Dan Monaghan - Track
Baker Moore - Baseball
Heather Moore - Softball
Mike Moran - Track
Chris Morland - Track
Thomas Mozur - Tennis
Mathew Myers - Baseball
Jamie Neher - Golf
Jason Parker - Football
Troy Pratt - Football
Jason Price - Football
Russell Rainey - Track
Tracy Reidhead - Softball
Jen Ross - Rowing
John Sartelle - Football
Christie Shefchunas - Swimming
Lans Slack - Golf
Kelly Smith - Track
Evan Stewart - Swimming
Owen Sullenger - Football
Adam Terrell - Swimming
Pashen Thompson - Basketball
Tim Turpen - Golf
Lisa Wyatt - Softball

1996-97 OFFICERS

President
Lloyd B. Richardson
Basketball '73

Immediate Past President
Jim Hill
Football '51

President-Elect
Pat Shires
Football '53

Vice President
Jeff Golliher
Football '84
Jeff Francis
Football '88
Don Bosch
Swimming '82

Secretary-Treasurer
Hal Wantland
Football '65
Judy Constantine
Honorary

UT Men's Athletic Director
Douglas A. Dickey

UT Women's Athletic Director
Joan Cronan

Chief Alumni Administrator
Billy Henry
Honorary

Board of Directors
Anthony Hancock
Track/Football '81

Gene Moeller
Football '52

Bill Wright
Basketball '47

Hal Bibee
Baseball '75

Gordon Polofsky
Football '51

Larry Seivers
Football '76

Wendell Anderson
Football '80

Rusty Ensor
Baseball '82

Andy Kozar
Football '52

VASF NEWS AND NOTES

COMPILED BY STEVE SAMS

Football Parking Applications

1997 football parking applications will be mailed in the end of May. They are due back in the Development by June 27. Contact Claire Stone for more information at (423) 974-1218.

A Big Thank You

The Office of Athletic Development would like to thank everyone who helped with the 1997 VASF Fund Drive. All of these people went out of their ways to make this year's campaign a resounding success. Together, the Fund Drive workers accounted for more than $600,000 in new monies raised. Thank you and great job.

The Memphis area team, led by Jim Duke, consisted of, Greg Meyer, Kirk Riggins, Keith Riggins, Joe Wilson, Morgan Bohannon, Oakley Bohannon, Bill Cohn Jack Billings, Jr., Mike McManus, John David Baddour, Chris Heppel, Dot England, Jana Fuqua, Ron & Marilyn Lewis, Ralph Phillipy, and Gordon Summerfield.

The Atlanta, Ga., area fund drive team was captained by Allen & Susan Vaughn. They also had Paul & Jackie Farmer, Niki Tate, Wallace Henry, Randy Beard, Carol Scroggs, Beverly Puckett, and Rebecca Barke helping them.

The Tri-Cities team was led by David & LeAnne Miller. Also helping them were Ron Grubbs, Michael Bishop, and Barry Taylor.

A few cities had multiple teams in them including Knoxville, Nashville, and Chattanooga.

Chattanooga had two teams, one was led by Cathy & Steve Ashby. They recruited Homer Holdredge, Chuck & Sonia Marsh, Steve & Carol Ralston, Reggie & Louann Suits, Billy Mitchell, Hugh Walker, Todd Walker, Todd Duggan, and Trey White to help.

The other Chattanooga team was led by Bill & Jeanne Trewitt. Bob Kendall, Mark Castle, Paul Bacon, Mike Thomasson, Mark Warren, Jeff Keasley, Joey Buckley, Paul Rouse, Jack Stone, Richard Grant, Chuck Fleischmann, Doyle & Martha Attaway. Ben Crownover, Greg Payne, Marty Hayes, and Chuck & Robin McCollum helped with this team

Knoxville had three teams, one was led by Gary Rowcliffe. His team also had Tim Tidwell, Jack Clark, Jr., Bud Markham, Mike Turner, Mark Graber, Leslie Cate, Pat Fallon, Doug Ward, and Mike Gibson.

Another team in Knoxville followed Bob Mitchell, Bruce Webb, Michael Childers, Gail Bowman, Mike Hall, Gary Coleman, David Laughlin, David Wright, Hal Morris, Bob Ward, and Jerry Kelley were a part of this team.

The third Knoxville team was led by Mike McKenzie. He had Jim Harris, Richard Fraser, Jane May, George Cathaway, Dave Nichols, Dutch Cavender, Marc Zuckerman, Greg Watts, Bob & Nancy Cowan, and David Watkins helping this team.

Nashville had four teams this year. One was lead by Pete & Carole Kutz. They were assisted by Larry & Darlene Eley, Billy Dwight & Ann Smith, and Tim & Kim Woodward.

Another Nashville team was led by Peggy Smith Lewis. She recruited Rick Regen, Jim Crossman, Larry McLeod, Tracy Pack, Arles Greene, Ken Grissom, Greg & Sally Langley, John & LaDonna Graves, Joe Martini, Roger Underhill, Randy Toney, bill & Linda Penny, Bob Hash, Joel Carr, Joe Casey, Robert Kimbrell, Wayne McNeal, Sandy Troope, and Carlene Stoner to help this team succeed.

Bobby & Sarah Simerly led another one of the Nashville teams. They were assisted by Robert Mifflin, Jr., John Mifflin, Tom Cribbs, Johnny Hayes, Don Alexander, Steve & Cindy Kroeger, Tommy McElhiney, Carroll Uselton, Mike Fussell, Dennis Waggoner, Wendell Waller, Todd Wilson, Ed Underwood, Richard Petty, and Diane Cotton.

Nashville's other team was led by E.V. King. He had Rob Moore, Morris Landau, Don King, Ryland Hoskins, Geoffrey Hemmrich, Michael Moreland, Mike Collier, Al Dorsey, Terry Smith, Lucian & Gene Scott, Mike Smith, Scooter Clippard, and David Weed to help this team.

The Gatorade Track Classic takes place at Tom Black Track on May 23-24.

New VASF Staff

Charlotte Christopher has joined the VASF staff as the Principal Secretary. She comes to the Office of Athletic Development from the UT Network and Telephone services division. Christopher is from East Tennessee and has a husband and two boys. She has an athletic background, having played basketball, softball, and volleyball in high school and college. Welcome to the program.

Tennessee baseball fans enjoy the good times at Lindsey Nelson Stadium.

Another Thank You

The VASF would like to thank all the student workers who helped in the Office of Athletic Development during the 1996-97 academic year. David Large, Paula Ogle, Chad Smith, Steve Sams, Jeff Neblett, Mike Smith, and Matt Wells contributed to the continued success of this office. Thank you for all the behind-the-scenes tasks each of you have done to keep the VASF Office running smoothly.

Alumni Picnics

Mark your calendars now for the Alumni Association sponsored picnics this summer. This is your chance to meet University and Volunteer staff and athletes. The Tri-Cities-area Alumni Picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 22, at the Elizabethton High School in Elizabethton, Tenn. The Nashville-area Alumni Picnic will be held on Thursday, July 24, at the National Guard Armory. For more information, contact Steve Catlett in the Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving at (423) 974-3011.

Welcome Back Barbecue

A chance to meet and greet some of the new athletes and staff for the fall football season will be Saturday, August 23, in Thompson-Boling Arena, when the Knoxville Quarterback Club co-sponsors the welcome back barbecue with the Office of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving. Contact Steve Catlett in the Alumni Affairs office at (423) 974-3011 for more details.

The Last Word...
"In Memoriam: Jim McDonald"

He was a legendary prep athlete in the state of Ohio, a graduate of and a 1937 All-America selection at Ohio State University, an assistant coach at Tennessee from 1955-62 and head coach of the Vols in 1963. His name was Jim McDonald and the history books should be kind in their assessments of his contributions to Tennessee football. Jim died May 1 in Knoxville at age 81.

Having met Wyatt during World War II when they were U.S. Navy officers and teammates on the base team in California, McDonald joined Wyatt's first Tennessee staff in 1955 and coached centers and linebackers through the 1962 season before being named head coach in June, just about three months before the Vols opened the 1963 season against Richmond. During his time on the coaching staff, he had played a major role in bringing such Volunteers as Dick Evey, Paul Naumoff and Steve DeLong to campus.

Jim McDonald served the University of Tennessee for 27 years.

His Tennessee team finished that 1963 season 5-5, but won four of its last five games, giving up but seven points in the four victories.

If McDonald's tenure as Vol head man was brief, and perhaps known best for the Orange jerseys with black stripes, the "Halloween shirts" as one former Vol called them, perhaps his finest hours came during the transition period.

When Doug Dickey became head coach in December 1963, McDonald, an assistant athletic director, was right there and pitched in to get things going in the right direction. McDonald took Dickey on his first recruiting trip and things began auspiciously.

They went to Cleveland to visit with a tackle named Bob Johnson, who would become a two-time All-America center for the Vols. After a short trip across the Tennessee River on Blythe Ferry, they ended up in Pikeville and saw a strapping Bledsoe Countian named John Boynton, who would be an All-SEC selection in 1967. "We never had any linemen like that at Arkansas that looked like those guys," Dickey remembered. "I knew this was the right job."

They signed on the dotted line a few weeks later and many of the great names in Tennessee football history were to follow. It was quite a start for one of the most exciting eras in Vol football. Johnson, then 17 years old, remembered the transition from coach to coach.

"I first committed to Tennessee because of Coach McDonald," Bob said May 2. "When he came down to Cleveland with Coach Dickey, I thought to myself that this has to be the most gracious hand-off there has ever been. He had every right to be upset having just been replaced, but he was a remarkably classy guy in the way he's handling it."

Dickey said the credit for the smooth transition had to go to McDonald. "Jim just did a great job," he said. "He was a true team player who made it easy for me. He worked to enhance the program."

McDonald broke into the starting lineup at Ohio State as a sophomore and was there the rest of his career as a running back and linebacker. He was All Big 10 in football and basketball and was a third baseman on the Buckeye baseball team. His college heroics came on the heels of a prep career that saw his football team win the state championship and the basketball team finish state runner-up.

He played professionally for the Detroit Lions for two seasons before returning to his home town of Springfield, Ohio, as head coach at Springfield High. McDonald-coached teams at Springfield won 87 games, against 23 defeats and five ties during his 12 years there.

He also had the unique distinction of playing in the 1935 Ohio State-Notre Dame game and coaching in the 1956 Tennessee-Georgia Tech game, games ranked one and two all-time by an Associated Press poll in the 1960s.

"Big Jim." as he was known, retired from the Athletic Department in 1982, completing 27 years on the Hill.

His son, Jimmy, played on Dickey-coached teams at Tennessee from 1966-68.

At home, McDonald was a proud member of the Knoxville Kiwanis Club since 1963 and served as its president in 1971. Nearly to the end, McDonald spearheaded the annual visit of Vol coaches to the club for a preview of the upcoming seasons. It was something he enjoyed doing.

Jim was a member of Knoxville's First Presbyterian Church and had served as local chairman of the American Heart Association and as president of the Knoxville Boys Club.

Jim was named "Distinguished American" by the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame in 1995, given annually to a man who "carries the lessons learned in the game of football to a life of service in the community." In his introduction of McDonald, Dickey noted that "... every young coach needed a Jim McDonald." He was right.

Every generation needs a Jim McDonald to point the way.

— Tom Mattingly

Here They Are!

Genuine Hand Autographed
U.T. Football Cards

See Story in March 31st Issue
SMOKEY'S TALE

Sets Available From $ 109.00 to $ 279.00

CALL 423-429-4766

or Write: Touchdown Tennessee
P.O. Box 5373
Sevierville, TN 37864

Smokey's Tale Volunteers MAGAZINE

an Official Publication
of the UT Athletic Department
P.O. Box 15016
Knoxville, TN 37901-5016
UTPA# EO1-8601-10-001-97

PERIODICAL

May 19, 1997

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxCAR-RT-SORTxxC-009
HODGES LIBRARY
1015 VOLUNTEER BLVD
KNOXVILLE TN 37916-3109